

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-5 as follows:

Submit  
1. (Amended) A nonwoven fabric containing thermoplastic synthetic microfibers, said nonwoven fabric comprising:

a  
thermoplastic synthetic fibers being about 5 [~] to 30 mm long and as fine as about 0.1 [~] to 0.8 d, in about 90 [~] to 10 % by weight, mixed and mechanically entangled with pulp fibers being about 2 [~] to 7 mm long, in about 10 [~] to 90 % by weight, so as to have a basis weight of about 10 [~] to 80 g/m<sup>2</sup> as a whole.

2. (Amended) A nonwoven fabric according to Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic synthetic fibers [preferably is] comprise melt blown fibers.

3. (Amended) A nonwoven fabric according to Claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric [is a kitchen paper or a wipe-out sheet.] comprises a paper towel.

4. (Amended) A method of making nonwoven fabric containing thermoplastic synthetic microfibers, said method comprising the steps of:

a. [obtaining] providing a wet sheet from a slurry containing about 0.5 [~] to 20 % by weight of a fibrous mixture dispersed in water, said fibrous mixture comprising, [in] about 90 [~] to 10 % by weight, thermoplastic being about 7 [~] to 30 mm long and as fine as [of] about 0.1 [~] to 0.8 d mixed with pulp fibers being about 2 [~] to 7 mm long, in about 10 [~] to 90 % by weight; [and]